



Minnesota State Demographic Center

# Income and poverty trends among Black Minnesotans

PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF THE COUNCIL FOR  
MINNESOTANS OF AFRICAN HERITAGE

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**3 What is Person 1's sex? Mark (X) ONE box.**

☐ Male ☐ Female

**4 What is Person 1's age and what is Person 1's date of birth?**  
*Please report babies as age 0 when the child is less than 1 year old.*

Age (in years) *Print numbers in boxes.* Month Day Year of birth

→ **NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 5 about Hispanic origin and Question 6 about race. For this survey, Hispanic origins are not races.**

**5 Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?**

☐ No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano

☐ Yes, Puerto Rican

☐ Yes, Cuban

☐ Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – *Print origin, for example, Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on.* ↴

**6 What is Person 1's race? Mark (X) one or more boxes.**

☐ White

☐ Black or African Am.

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.* ↴

☐ Asian Indian ☐ Japanese ☐ Native Hawaiian

☐ Chinese ☐ Korean ☐ Guamanian or Chamorro

☐ Filipino ☐ Vietnamese ☐ Samoan

☐ Other Asian — *Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.* ↴

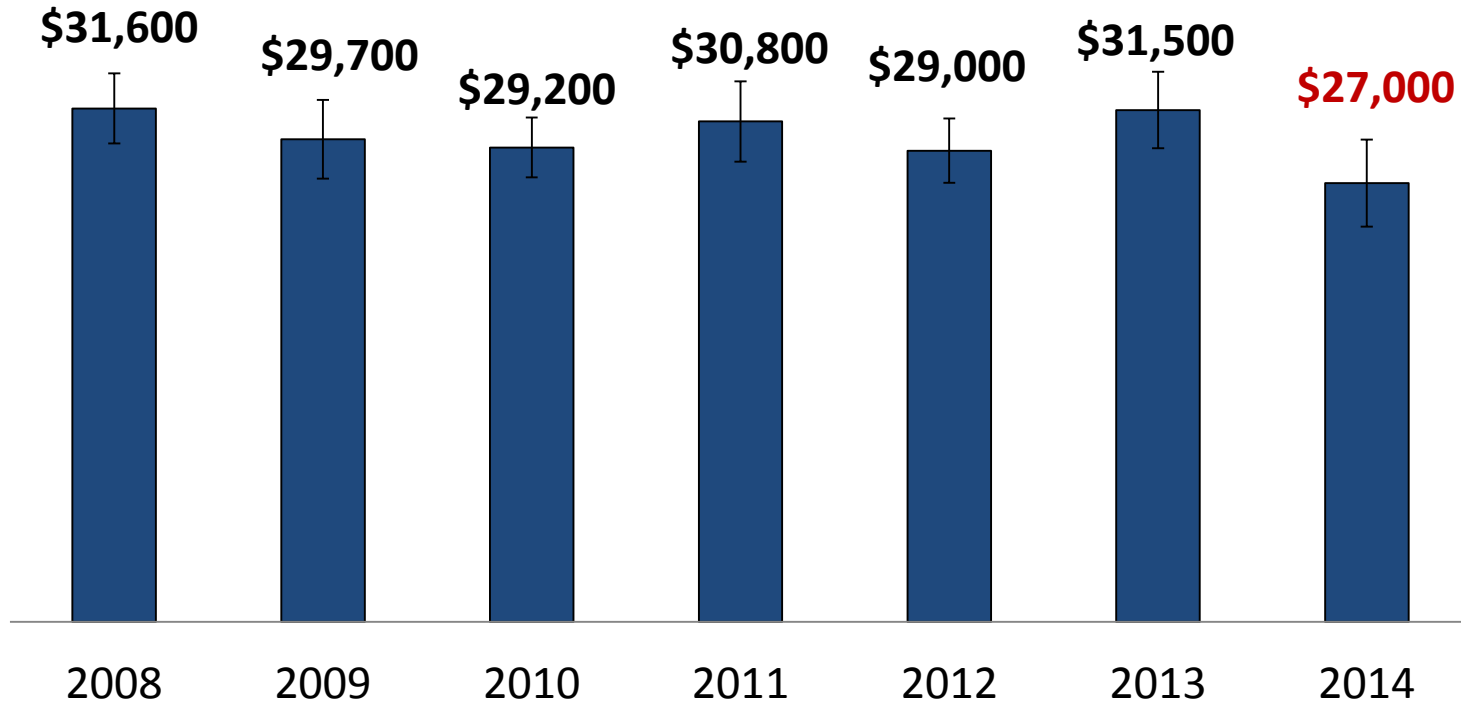
☐ Other Pacific Islander — *Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.* ↴

**Data Source:  
U.S. Census  
Bureau's American  
Community Survey**

**77,000  
Minnesota  
Households  
surveyed *every  
year***

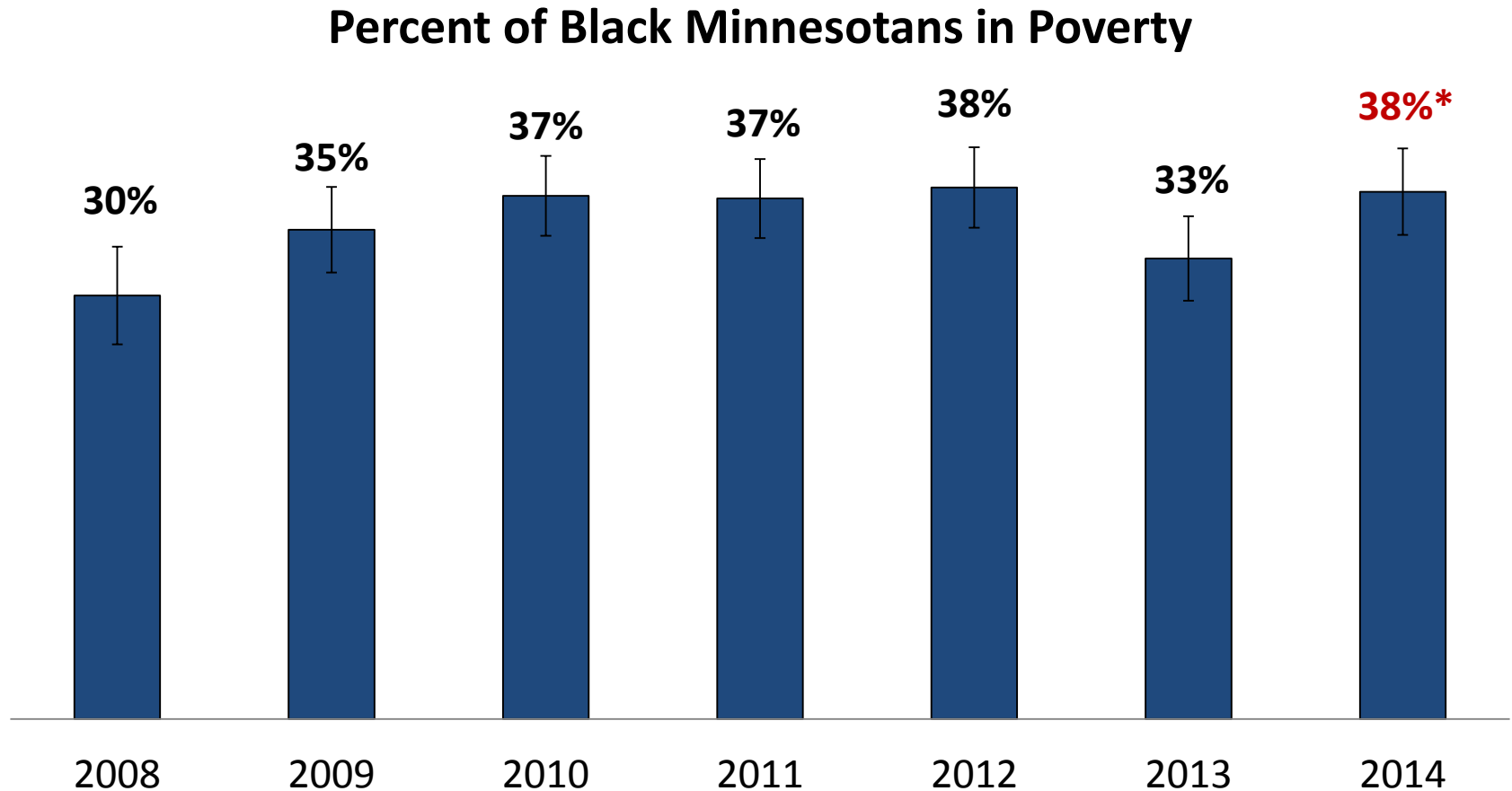
# Recent media focus has been on household income decline between 2013 and 2014

**Black Median Household Income  
Minnesota, 2014 dollars**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Note: Error margins exist around estimates but are not shown.

# 2014 Census data also showed an increase in poverty among Black Minnesotans



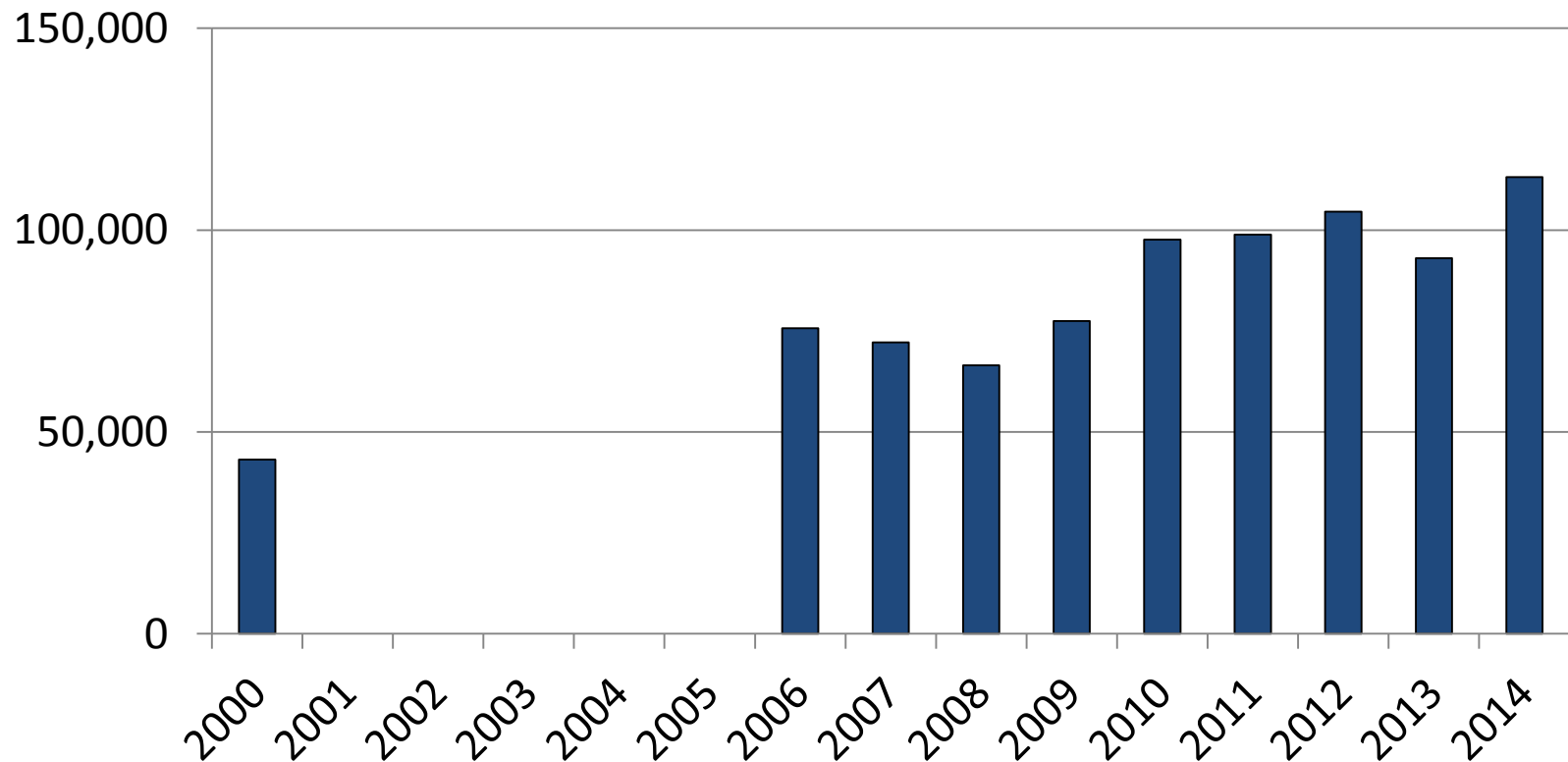
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Note: Error margins exist around estimates but are not shown.

# Why did Black income change?

- Composition of the Black population changes each year (because of migration, aging, number and structure of households)
- Economic changes – type of employment held, wages earned, etc.
- Estimates can “bounce around” because they come from a survey

# Number of Black Minnesotans in poverty continues to grow

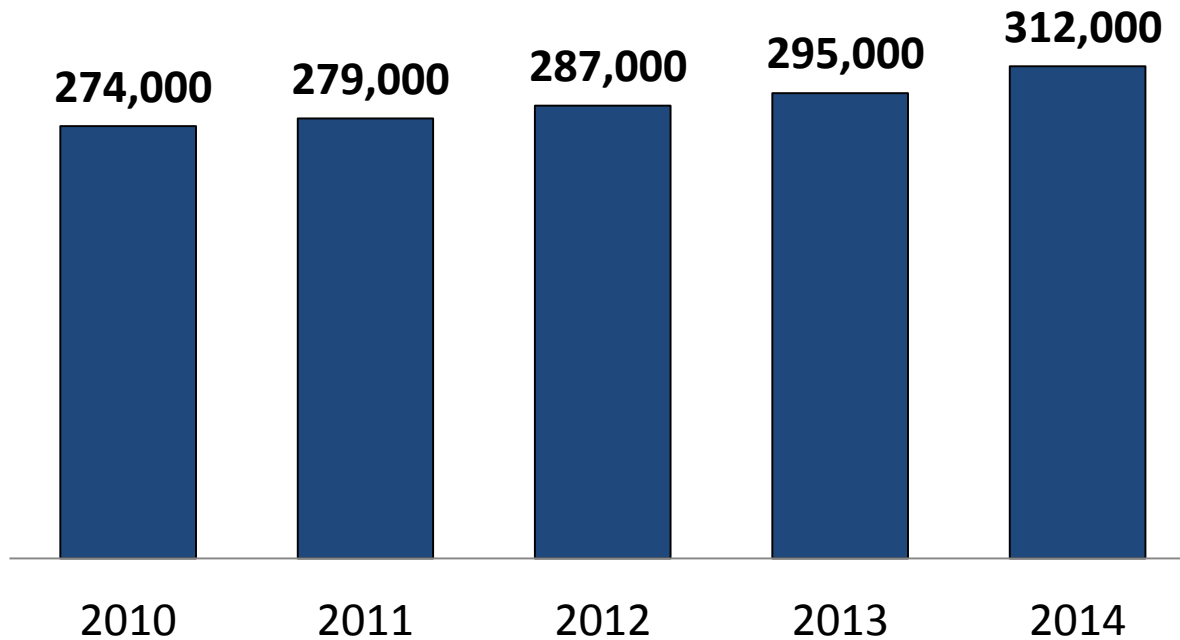
Black Minnesotans in poverty  
2000-2014



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census and American Community Survey.

Note: Error margins exist around estimates but are not shown.

**Black population in Minnesota is growing rapidly; adding ~38,000 people in just 4 years**



**...the White population grew by about 26,000**

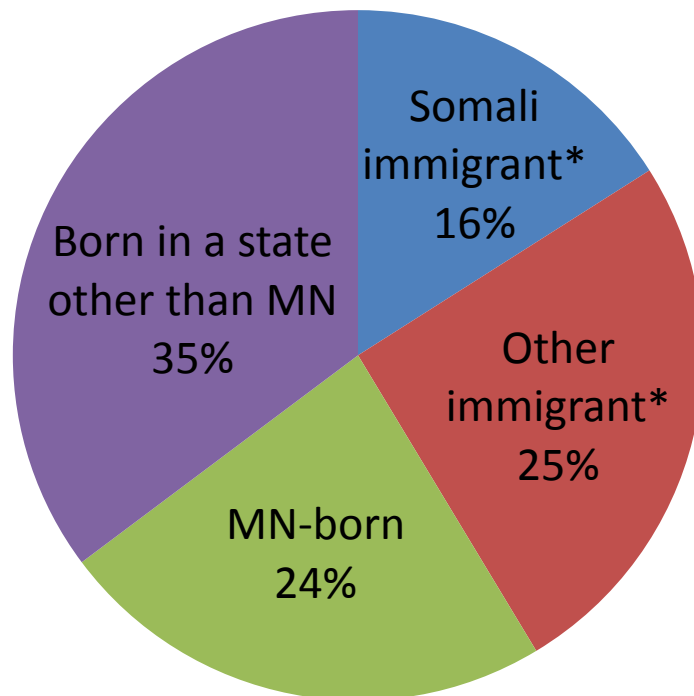
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Note: Error margins exist around estimates but are not shown.

# Black Minnesotans come from all over the U.S., globe

## Black Minnesotans 2011-2013

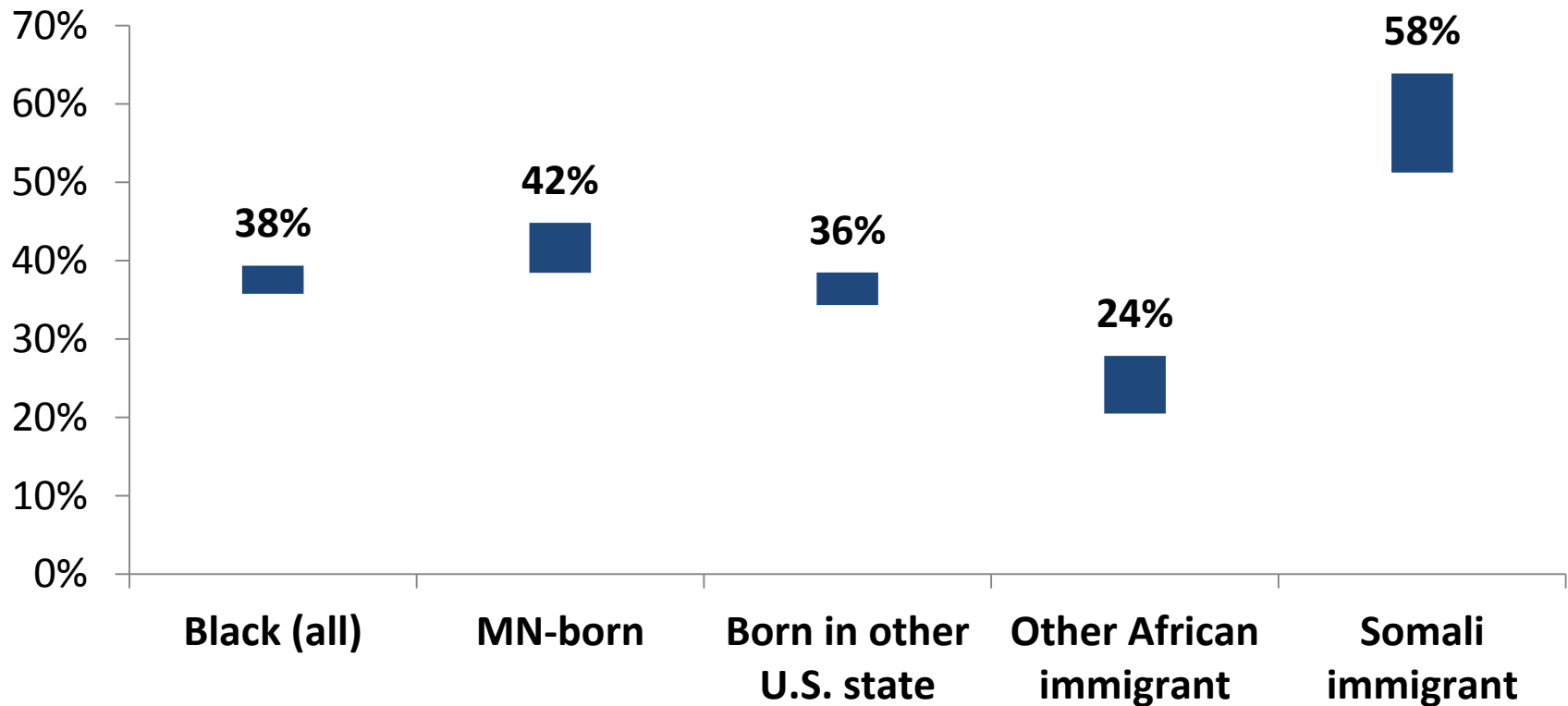
\* In this graph, “immigrants” are people who are either:

- 1) born outside the U.S., or
- 2) born in the U.S. and live with at least one parent who is foreign-born.



# Poverty highest among Somalis; lowest among other Black immigrants

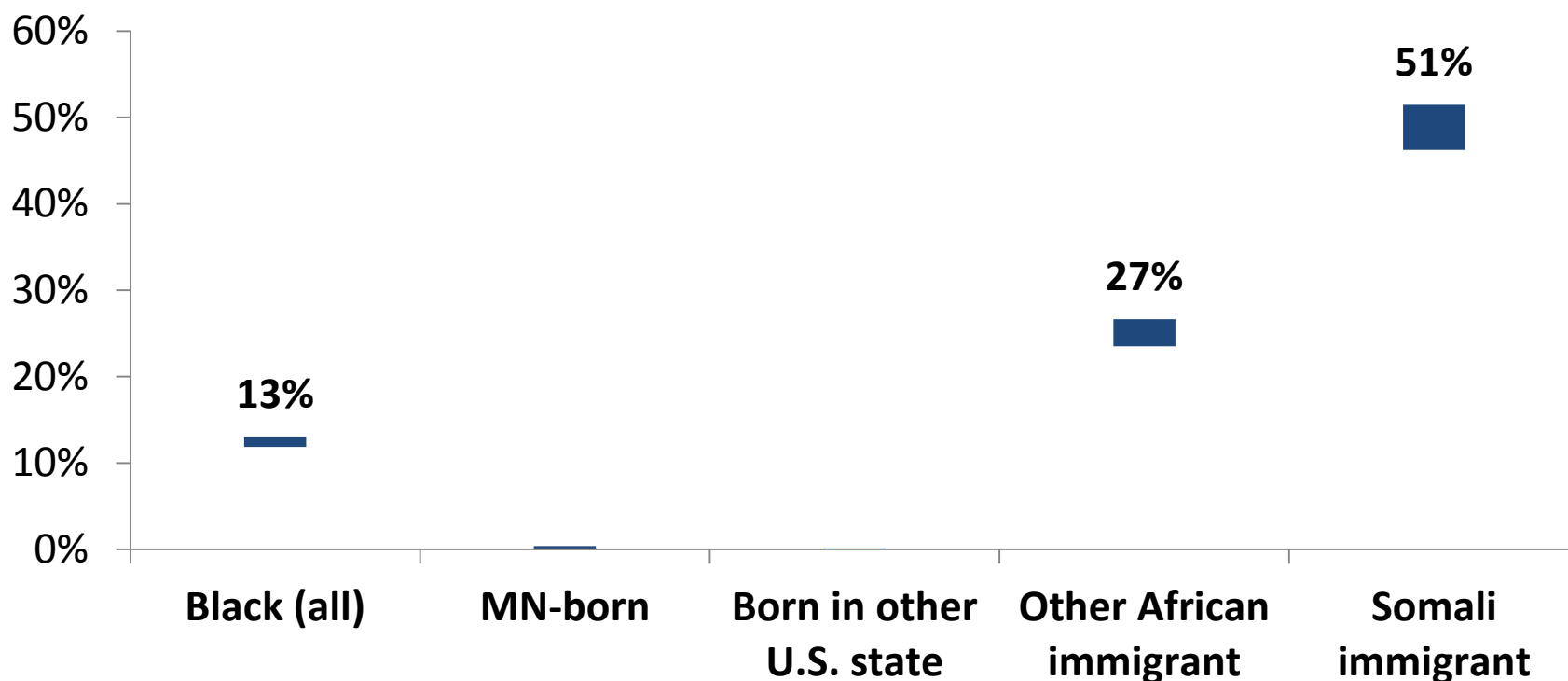
Percent in poverty by sub-group  
Black Minnesotans, 2009-2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Note: Range shows the 90% confidence interval. Percentage given is the midpoint of the range.

# More than 1 in 10 Black Minnesotans (age 16-64) report language limitations

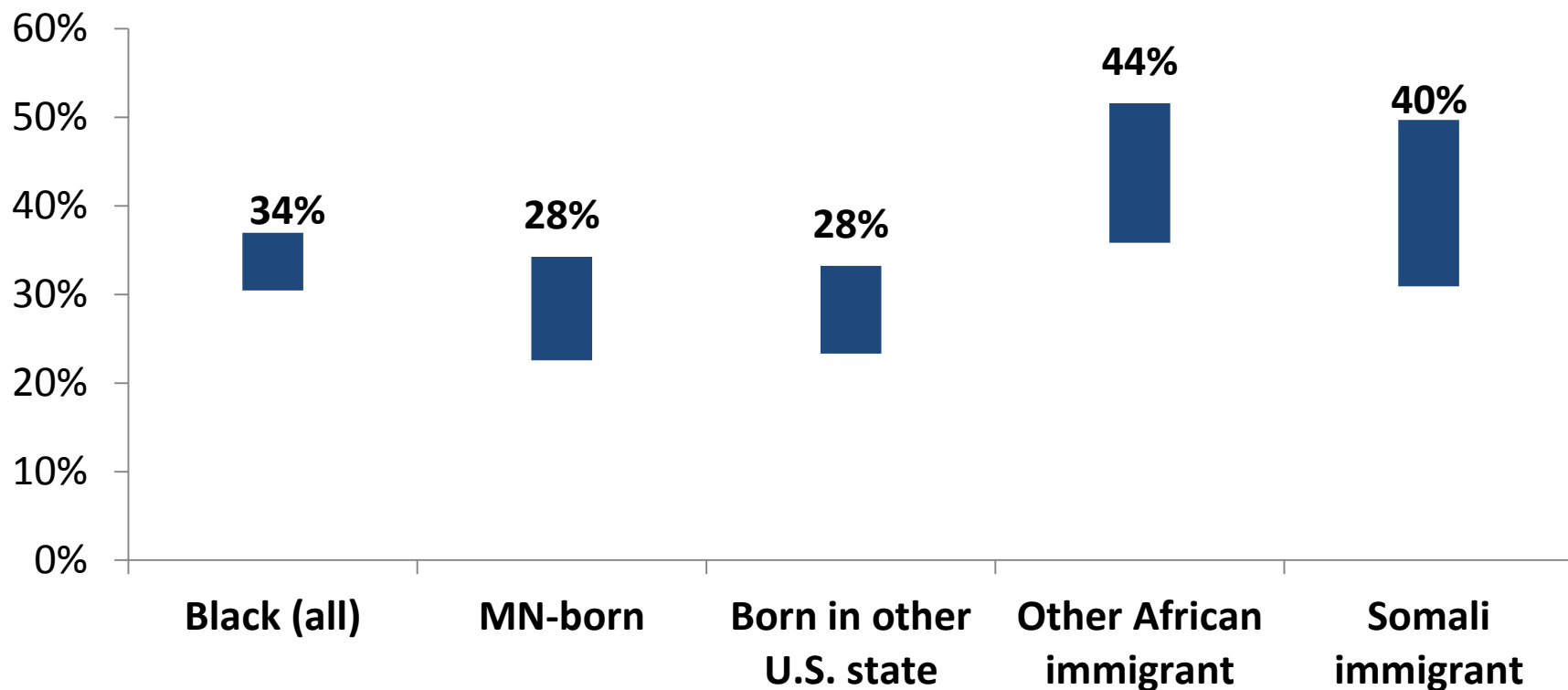
Percent with language limitations  
Black Minnesotans (age 16-64), 2009-2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Note: Error margins exist around estimates but are not shown. Range shows the 90% confidence interval. Percentage given is the midpoint of the range.

# Post-secondary enrollment lower among U.S.-born Black Minnesotans

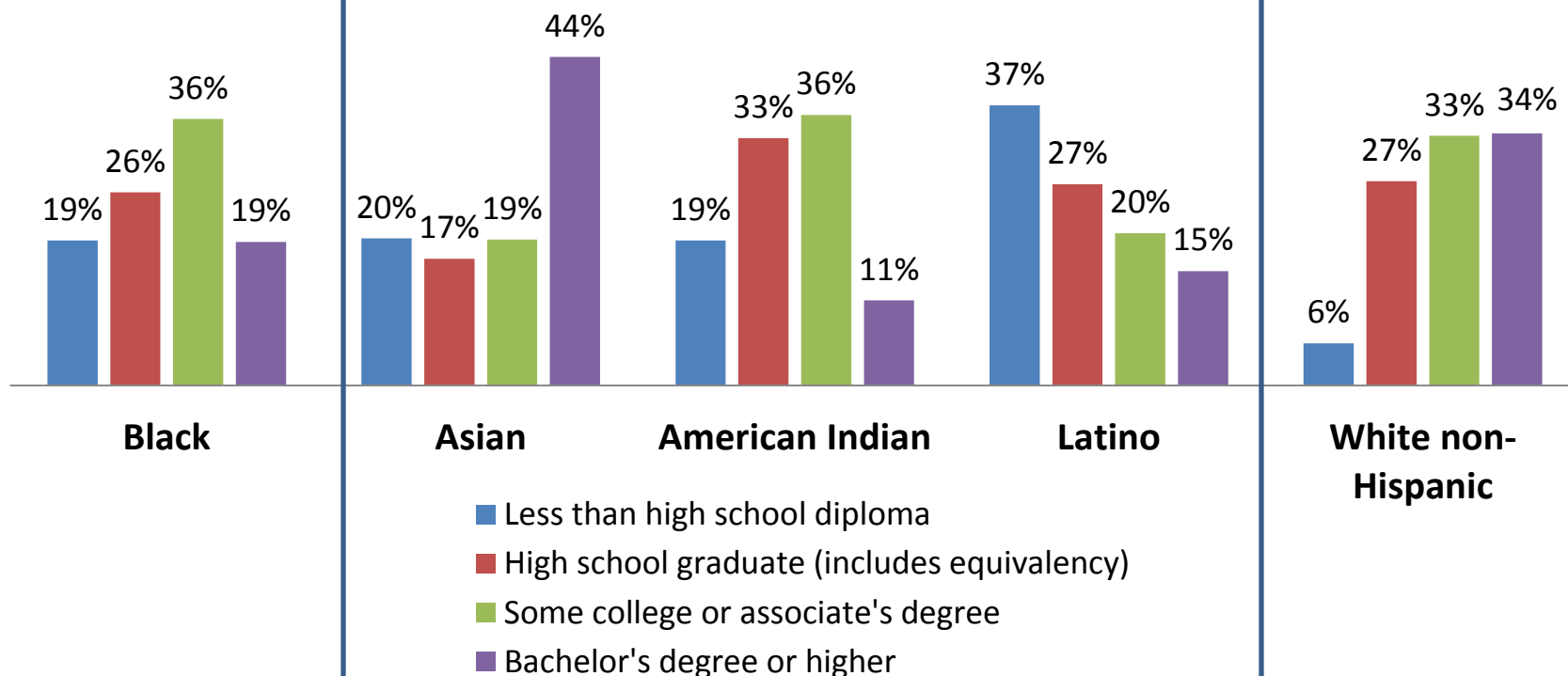
Percent enrolled in post-secondary school  
Age 18-24, Black Minnesotans, 2009-2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Note: Range shows the 90% confidence interval. Percentage given is the midpoint of the range. Figures are rounded.

# Educational attainment patterns vary widely across race groups in MN

**Minnesotans Age 25+  
2009-2013**

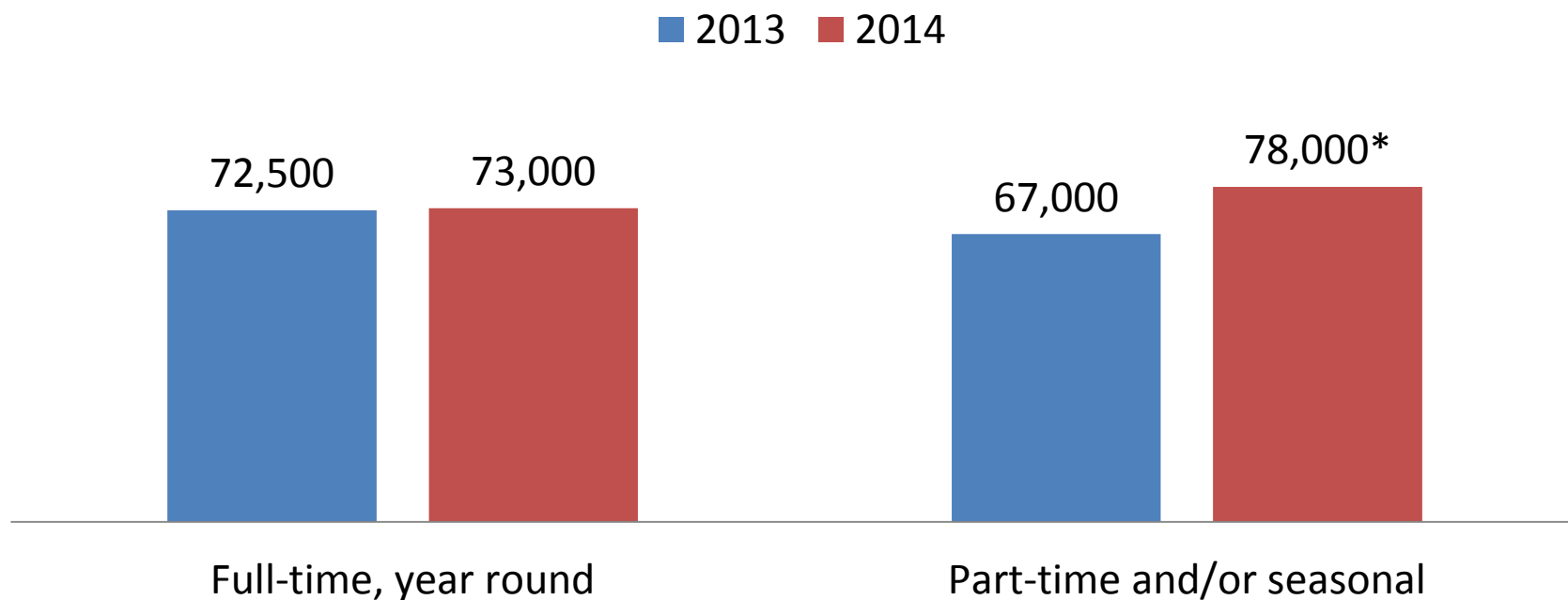


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Note: Error margins exist around estimates but are not shown.

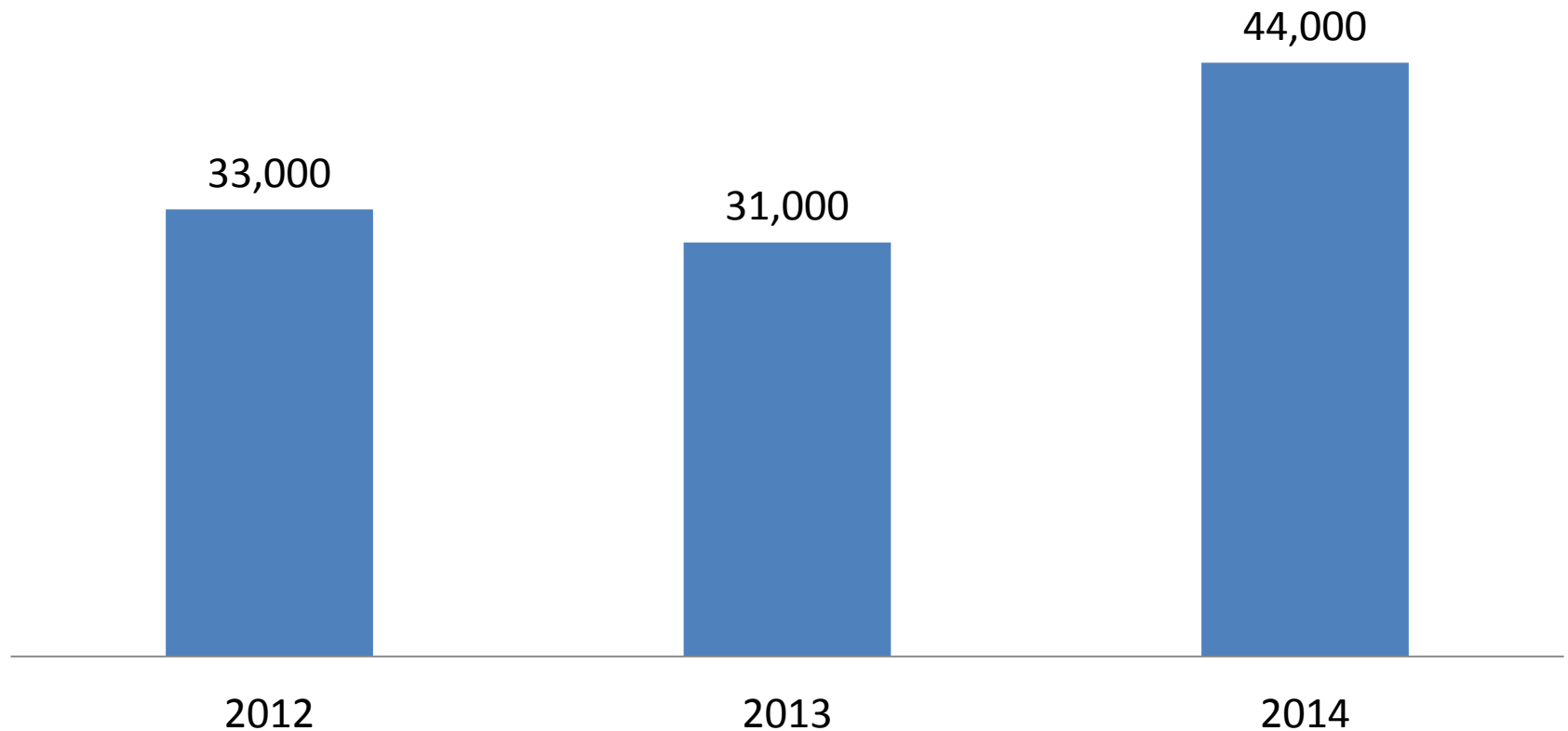
# Increase in the number of Black Minnesotans working between 2013-2014

Change in work experinece  
Black Minnesotans, 2013-2014



# Increase in number with language limitations

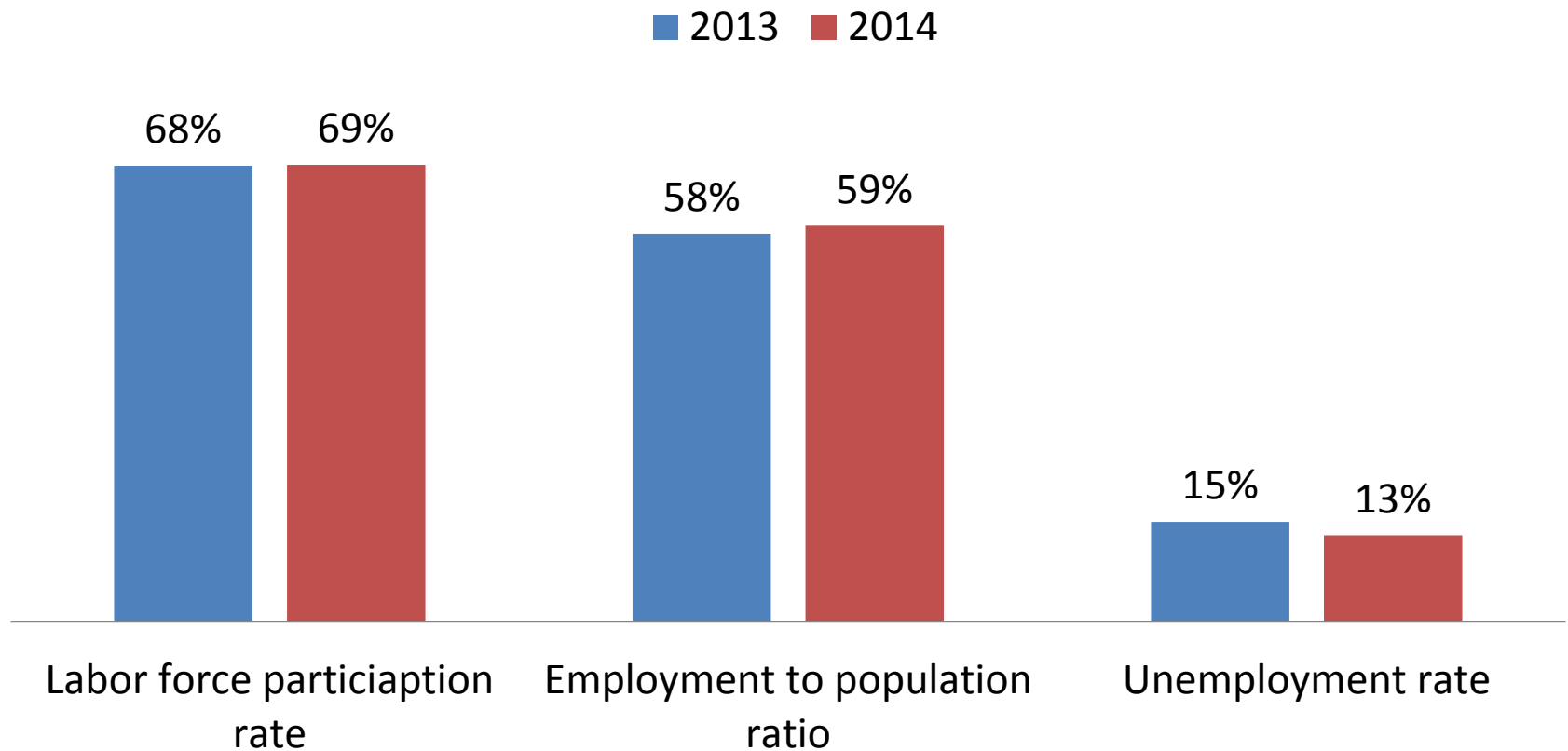
Number speaking English less than "very well"



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

# Unemployment rate statistically unchanged

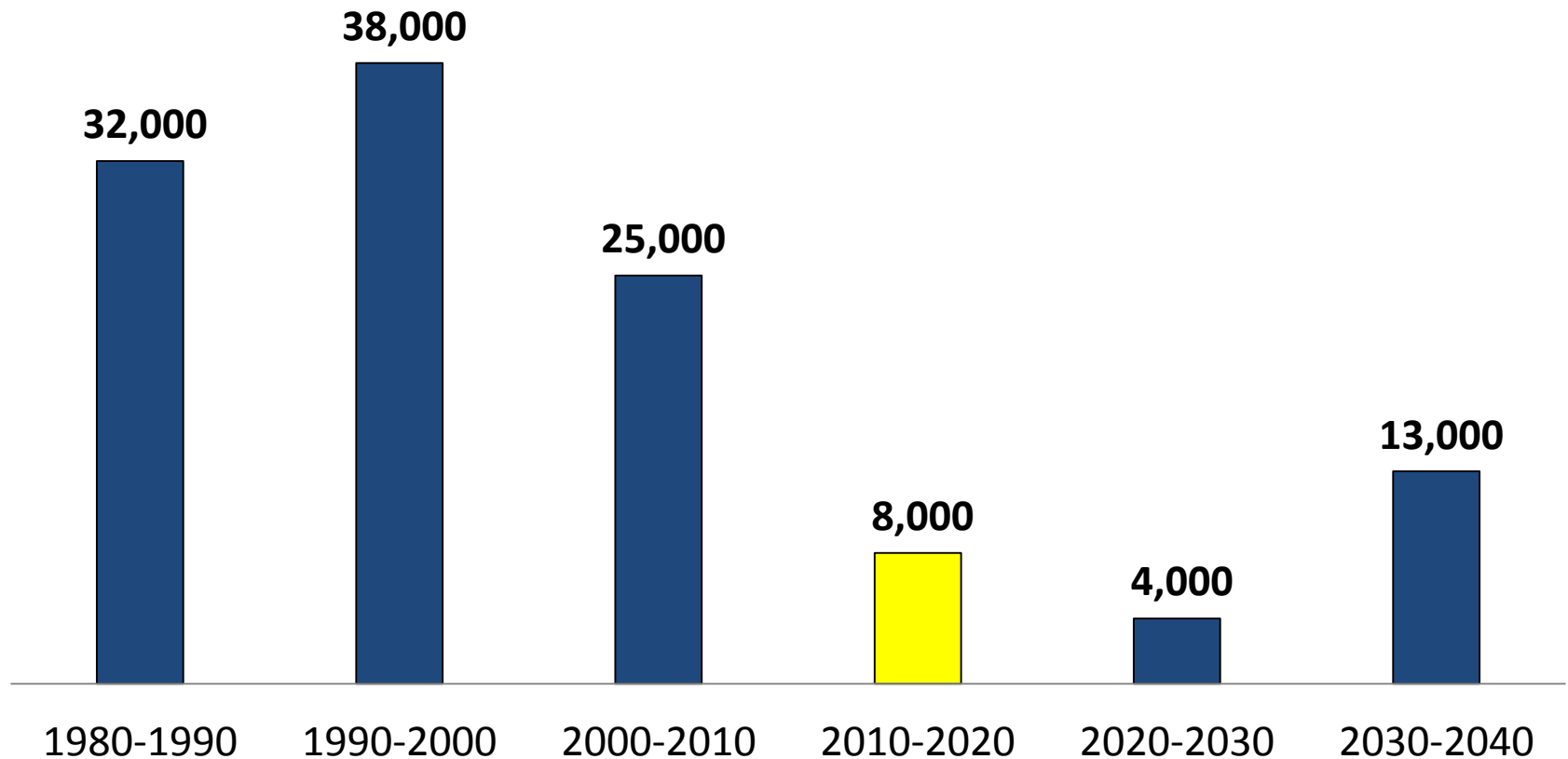
## Labor force and work status of Black Minnesotans



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

# Projected Growth in Labor Force

Minnesota, Annual Average, Ages 16+



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, MN State Demographic Center projections.

# Take aways

- Recent drop in median household income for MN Blacks is not *the* central issue. Census numbers point to: **Persistently high-poverty and low-earnings during a time of economic growth.**
- Black Minnesotans are not all alike – different histories and barriers to economic security
- New era for employers: Where will they find the workers they need?



Minnesota State Demographic Center

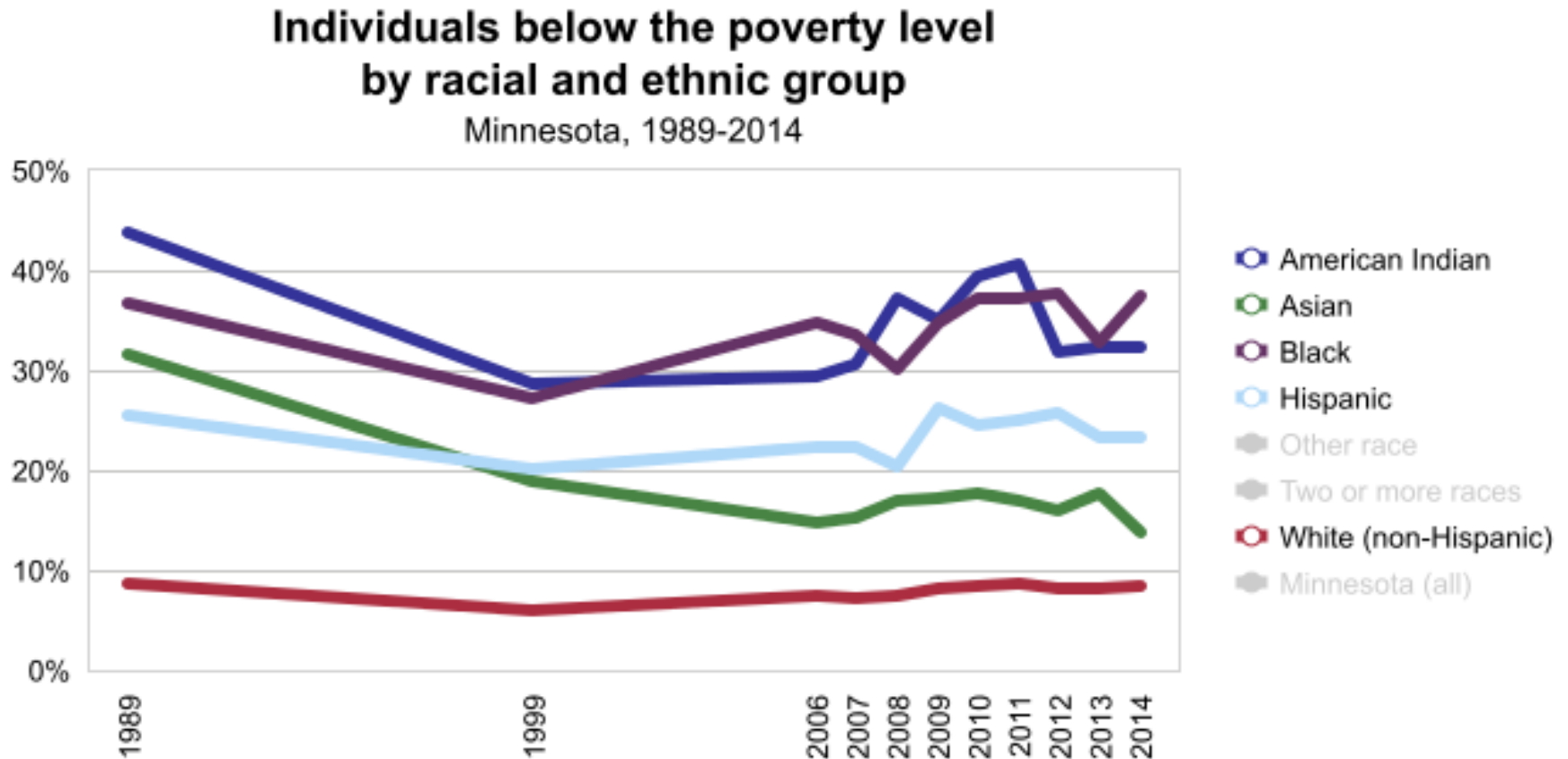
Questions?

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# Poverty on the rise for Black Minnesotans since the Great Recession



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census and American Community Survey. Graphic via MNCompass:  
<http://www.mncompass.org/economy/poverty#1-6768-g> Note: Error margins exist around estimates but are not shown.